

Can People be possessed with Devils Today?

All Scripture is KJV: Mark 5 (all verses)

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

Mark 5: All the verses.

What I want to preach about this morning is on the subject of being possessed with devils.

We commonly refer to this as being demon possessed. But the bible does not use the word demon. Although it is found over 82 times in the NIV and the New King James, and 76 times in the ESV or English standard version.

The KJV bible only uses the word Devils, so if I accidentally use the word Demon just know that the bible is speaking about Devils not Demons.

But what I want to speak about this morning is being possessed with Devils, and whenever I think about this subject I always think about the book of Mark. Almost every single chapter in the book of Mark has something to say about devils and being possessed with devils.

I don't know if you ever noticed in reading your bible the book of Mark deals with this subject very heavily, and as I said it's hard to miss any chapter or page in the book of Mark where it does not have something to say on the subject of Devils.

- Let me show you a few quick examples and then we will get into the implications of this.

Go to Mark chapter 1, and right away this subject is being brought up, and it's almost on every page.

- **Mark Chapter 1:23 the bible reads** ²³ **And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit** and he cried out,
 - Unclean spirit.....is another name for the Devil.
- ✓ And right away what do you see after that verse in verse 24.... It was a man with an unclean spirit, crying out and saying.....

Mark Chapter 1:²⁴ **Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.**

1. But there was only one person, but he was saying Let us alone? So who was he referring to?
2. Well right away you see that there was more than one Devil as he referred to the plural we, and us.

3. So it shows you that straightaway this man was possessed with at least more than one Devil.
4. There were a multiple of devils that had possessed this man.
5. The devil is saying to Jesus **thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.**
6. Isn't this also consistent with James Chapter 2 as we have read before.....that the devils also believe that there is one God, and they tremble.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: **the devils also believe, and tremble.**

7. He we see that the Devils are fully aware of who Jesus is? They are saying I know thee the Holy One of God.
8. And they are fearful of Him, they tremble. They saying what have we to do of Him? And asking Jesus has he come to destroy them?

- Now look at verse 25-28, in Mark 1.

25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

28 And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.

1. When we read these verses we see that as Jesus casts out these Devils his fame goes out to everyone.
2. This was a very big deal back in Jesus' day when many people were possessed with devils and we see here in just these few verses in Mark 1 that this man was possessed with many devils.

- ✚ **But let me ask you this question? Where have all the devils gone since Jesus was here on earth?**
- ✚ **Have they simply disappeared, and have they stopped indwelling people?**

- ✓ Well there is no place in the bible that says that the devils have stopped possessing people or indwelling people; since we see all through the NT that people were indwelt with Devils?

- ❖ **Did the devils go anywhere?**
- ❖ **Are they just gone now, or do they still exist?**

- We know for sure that the bible says the devil still exists and therefore his "devils" which others may refer to as demons still exist.

- ✓ This doctrine is not something that you will hear very often, or talked about in a Baptist Church,people just don't stop to think about this.
- ✓ But yet this has a huge impact on how people live their lives.

✚ Let me ask you this question?

1. **If Jesus exists and we know that he does, then how is it that people will not believe that the devil is also true and that he exists?**
2. **And if Jesus is the one doing all the good, then why is it hard to believe that the devil is not going around and doing all the bad to some people?**

The devil is very real my friend, and we as believers had better get a grasp on that fact because he is as a roaring lion going around seeking whom he may devour?

3. He is not just part of someone's imagination dressed in a red outfit and carrying a pitch fork like a superman character. The Devil is very real indeed.

✚ **So what does this chapter in the Book of Mark remind you of in our modern day encounters?**

✚ **If we saw a modern day encounter like this what does it remind you of?**

- What if you came across a person that was screaming and foaming at the mouth and saying all these things, like Let us alone.....what would it remind you of?
- Wouldn't you say that this person is insane.....or mad, or having multiple personalities.....and in need of his medication?
- Wouldn't they be receiving medication to calm them down, and going to a psychiatrist for treatment or psychological examinations?

However I am NOT saying that all people who have this kind of disorder are filled or possessed with an unclean spirit? Or Devil (demon),

But could it not be a possibility in many cases that they are filled or indwelt with an unclean spirit or devil? (*remember that a fallen angel is known as a devil or unclean spirit in the KJV bible*)

1. That's why many times the Doctors or specialists will prescribe these drugs but they won't do anything to solve this disorder, it may mask it for a while but it will never cure them? (*because it just may be that they have an unclean spirit indwelling them*).

✚ Now this brings me to the question that you may have in your mind and that you may want to ask, and that is.....

2. **Can a saved person be indwelt with an unclean spirit, and the answer is simply no he can't because the bible teaches that a saved person cannot be indwelt with an unclean spirit?**
3. **The saved person has the "Holy Spirit" indwelling them and have been sealed by the Holy Spirit.**

But look at Mark 1 and verse 32-34.....and look what it says.

Mark 1: ³² And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him **all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.**

³³ And all the city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ **And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.**

4. You see Jesus was not just healing people who were sick of divers diseases but he was also healing people with had been possessed with devils and unclean spirits.
5. But Jesus clearly told the devils here not to speak because he did not want them to reveal his identity yet, because his time was not yet come for the completion of his ministry. But the devils knew exactly who Jesus was.
6. He did not want anyone to know at this time that he was the Christ, the Messiah so he shut the mouths of the devils so that they could not speak.
7. Jesus only revealed his identity to his disciples, the inner circle only, because he had a certain plan to fulfill the will of His Father in heaven.
8. That's why constantly in all four gospels Jesus over and over states that "my time has not yet come".
9. Jesus had a certain time frame to fulfill his Fathers will and so therefore he was not going to let these devils spoil that plan and so he shut their mouths.

Even look at Mark 3:11

¹¹ **And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.** ¹² **And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.**

- ✚ Just what we have seen today, and what we have learned, is that a lot of people today who have been classified as being insane and so on.....may only be that they are indwelt with an unclean spirit which is a devil.
- ✚ You hear people talking about multiple personalities, and that's because maybe they are filled with multiple unclean spirits, or devils. That would make better sense.

I am not going to say sorry for this next comment, but I believe the bible, and that there are people just like that who have been misdiagnosed by some or other psychiatrist, and given them drugs which end up in them killing themselves.

- ❖ I believe that even today there are people who are possessed just like the bible says. And no amount of medication or drugs is going to change that, other than the Word of God, the Word of our Lord, who can call that person to repentance to believe on Jesus Christ and rid that person of those unclean spirits of the devil.
- ✓ Unbelievers or even saved people may say that this is absurd to think that this can be the case, but I believe the bible and that's what the bible says.
- ✓ If you don't think that there are enough fallen angels (devils) to go around and cause this mayhem then think again.

The bible says that Satan when he fell from heaven he drew one third of the angels with him from heaven. (Revelation 12 and Daniel 7). Those are the angels that sinned against God, and left their habitation the bible says who followed Lucifer.

So if you think about what the bible says for example that in Revelation 5:11, the bible says the throne of God was surrounded by angels who's numbers were 10 thousand times 10 thousand and thousand of thousands. That's over 100 million surrounding God's throne. Then add those third that had fallen to this number and it is well over 140 million or more.

Then when a third of that number is taken we can figure at least a third of the fallen angels would be about 45 million. That's a lot of fallen angels.

- So that's a lot of devils or unclean spirits which is more than enough to go around and cause many possessions in people and even multiple devils in one person.

These unclean spirits are not flesh and bone, they are spirits. They are not aliens invading people, like you hear about in misquoting Genesis 6. (sons of God remember the message).

Remember what Jesus said after the resurrection when he spoke to his disciples, he said come and handle me and put your finger and hands in my side, for spirits have not flesh and bone.

Luke 24:39 Behold my **hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.**

- ✓ He also said that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.

John 3:6 That **which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

- ✓ These devils are clearly not flesh and bone, they are spirits occupying a body. And in this case a human body.
- ✚ Just as the angels are ministering spirits, set forth to minister for them that believe.
- ✚ **Hebrews 1:14** **Are they not all ministering spirits,** sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?
- ✚ Angels of God are also spirits.
- ✚ Likewise these devils are also unclean spirits which can indwell someone's body. They can for instance enter someone's body and control that person's body. That's what is meant by being indwelt or possessed by one or more of these devils.
- ✚ Being possessed is when one or more of these fallen angels enter and control someone's body and get them to do whatever they want to do. By speaking through them and controlling their actions.

There are many examples in the book of Mark where devil are cast out.

So let me show them to you...

Mark 7:26-29 ²⁶ The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he **would cast forth the devil out of her daughter**. ²⁷ But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs. ²⁸ And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs. ²⁹ And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.

✚ In this case in Mark 7:26 we see where Jesus casts out a devil out of a girl, in fact it was also a child. It was the woman's daughter.

✓ Look at another interesting story in Mark chapter 9 in verse 17-29.

Mark 9:17-29

¹⁷ And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;

¹⁸ And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.

¹⁹ He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.

²⁰ And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

²¹ And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

²² And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.

²³ Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

²⁴ And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

²⁵ When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

²⁶ And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.

²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. ²⁸ And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

²⁹ And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

- ✚ So here in Mark 9 we see another child a young boy being devil possessed whilst he was still young.
 - ✚ So that's why when children play with these weeje boards and play games like glassy glassy and they actively try invoke these unclean spirits to come into them, they open themselves up to a devil attack by these unclean spirits which are the fallen angels.
 - ✚ It's not a game folks this is a serious situation and fatal to children and adults that could get possessed as they lure these devils into their lives through what seems to be an innocent game.
 - ✚ Look what happened to this child here in Mark 9.
1. Just by these few short chapters and verses in Mark alone we learnt how these unclean spirits attack and possess another person's body, and cause them to do all kinds of strange things.
 2. But yet, even in a lot of Baptist churches, and other churches this goes unanswered and unnoticed and just over looked or swept under the carpet because they refuse to believe that this still carries on today. Yet it is very biblical.
 3. All I am doing is showing you from the scriptures.

Here in this example from the scriptures, here we see a young boy who is possessed with a devil or unclean spirit or fallen angel and look what he is doing?

- a) He is falling on the ground.
- b) He is throwing himself in the fire,
- c) He is trying to drown himself, or commit suicide.
- d) He is foaming from the mouth,
- e) He is also pining away,
- f) He is also gnashing (clenching) his teeth.

- ✚ Throwing himself in the fire is not a natural thing to do?
- ✚ Trying to drown your self is not a natural thing to do?
- ✚ But this is what this young boy was doing as a result of being indwelt with this devil. (demon).

When you look at all these things happening today, when you see this today, could this not also be what the bible is referring to as being possessed?

- ❖ **But what does the medical world say ? no, just give them drugs and they will be ok.**
- ❖ **No, that's not ok. How is that going to help if that person is devil possessed?**

1. You see people will come and say that Christians are fickle because they teach that those who are sick or insane or displaying these symptoms are devil possessed? But that is not what bible believing Christians are saying. The bible is not saying that, and we are not teaching that.

✚ Not every case is devil possessed but the possibility is there.

2. Because the bible made it clear that Jesus himself separated and treated both sickness and other illnesses as well as those who were possessed with devils.
 3. So it does not mean that every person who is sick “hast a devil” in him.
- ❖ Just because a person is blind or deaf does not mean that they have sinned or filled with a devil.
 - ❖ There are many cases in the bible where we see people bringing others to Jesus to heal their blindness, when they ask Jesus why is he blind,.....and they ask..... did his parents sin cause him to be blind or what, and we see Jesus saying to them that neither has sinned, but that he was born like that.
1. So what I am also saying is that not every person who falls down on the ground is an epileptic.
 2. There are times when they could be devil possessed. Because the bible is clear that the devil is roaring around seeking whom he may devour?

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

3. And that's bible, so I am not going to stand up here and say that the **devil is not** possessing or indwelling people still today because he is.
- ✓ When we looking at this subject of being devil possessed the question as I said earlier often comes up when people ask “**can a believer be devil possessed**”, and as I stated earlier the answer is NO a believer cannot become devil possessed.
1. Firstly there is no evidence or any mention or any statement in the bible to say that a believer can.
 2. Secondly the evidence of that is found in Mark 3:22.

Mark 3:22²² And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

1. So here we see in Mark 3:22 that the scribes have come down from Jerusalem to come and see what Jesus was doing, because as the authorities in Jerusalem they came to see what all this casting out of devils was all about.
2. And when they came and saw Jesus doing these miracles of casting out these devils, they said that the only reason why he could cast out these devils was because he himself had a devil in him.

They said **He hath Beelzebub**, and that he was casting out the devils **by the prince of the devils** which of course they were referring to the OT term for Satan. (Baal-zebub). (2 Kings 1). In the OT Baal is the name for Satan. So any worshipping of Baal in the OT is referring to worshipping Satan.

These scribes, were not even saved themselves, they did not even believe in the OT. Yet they were accusing Jesus of being filled with the spirit of a devil because they were trying to explain away these miracles.

Even though they were the scribes who were writing down the OT they themselves did not believe.

- ✚ So the reason why the scribes are saying that he is casting out devils in the name of Beelzebub is because.....they are saying that he is Jesus' boss.
- ✚ Because they were saying that he is possessed with Satan himself, and that is where he was getting his power from to commands these unclean spirits.

- ✓ So as Jesus sees the scribes approaching he calls them over to him and asks them this question as we see in the following verses of Mark 3.

Mark 3: ²³ And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?

²⁴ And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

²⁵ And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

²⁶ And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.

²⁷ No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

²⁸ Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme:

²⁹ But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.

³⁰ Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.

- ✓ **So what was it that the scribes said that caused Jesus to tell them that they had no forgiveness?**
- ✓ **What was it that would cause them eternal damnation?**

The answer is in verse 30.

- ✓ **They said that he had an unclean spirit?**
- ✓ So what they were accusing Jesus of was having a devil in him, and that's why Jesus said they have never forgiveness.

- ❖ **What spirit did Jesus really have? He had the Holy Spirit.**

PRAYER.....CLOSE